

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13, 16, 17 and 20-22 are pending herein. Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 2-4, 6-8, 10-12, 14-16 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the content of allowable claim 2. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 18 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection is proper under Rule 1.116 and should thus be entered, because it simply incorporates allowable dependent claim 2 into independent claim 1. As such, this Amendment After Final Rejection places at least claim 1 (and all claims depending therefrom) in condition for allowance without creating any new issues for Examiner Olsen to consider.

1. The rejection of claims 1, 5, 9, 13 and 17 under §102(b) over Kato is noted, but deemed moot in view of the incorporation of the content of allowable claim 2 into claim 1.

2. Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under §103(a) over Kato. This rejection is respectfully traversed because claims 21 and 22 depend from amended claim 1, and amended claim 1 is allowable for the reasons explained above.


For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Examiner Olsen is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

September 30, 2008
Date



Stephen P. Burr
Reg. No. 32,970

Joseph A. Wilson
Reg. No. 53,780

SPB:JAW:jms

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068

Customer No.: 025191
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320